SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of widows mostly from eastern part trf-the-emurtry are at present employed as Bhajan singers in various ashrams of Vrindaban and other such places;

(b) whether it is also a fact that widows are paid a pittance and are living below poverty line; and

(c) whether Government contemplate to draw a plan to make their lives better and if so$_y$ the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Social Welfare Board has taken a number of steps for he rehabilitation of widows of Vrindaban. Financial assistance has been sanctioned for setting up of four Mahila Ashray Grihs. In addition to these, Vocational Training Courses for the widows and their female dependents, production units under Socio-Economic Programmes are being implemented for the benefit of these widows. A family Counselling Centre has been established there.

Government of India is implementing a Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Orgaasiations for programmes relating to the Aged. Under this Scheme Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units, covering aged widows also, are set up by Voluntary Organisations. Government of India has also formulated a National Social Assistance Scheme for giving pension to persons aged 65 years and above including widows.

State Governments are also providing Old Age Pensions. Some State Governments are providing Destitute Widow Pension solatium, lump-sum financial assistance etc. to widows.

Welfare Schemes for Tribal Communities

1331A SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Uflstarrea"Questiojis,,1920-and 6717 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th March and 19th May, 1995 respectively and state:

(a) the various schemes launched in Orissa for the Welfare and upliftment of different tribal connrrunities;

(b) the details of the benefits derived by the tribals in Orissa" during the last three years, under those upliftment and welfare schemes; and

(c) the funds allotted for those schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) The tribal welfare schemes taken up in Orissa by this Ministry are as follows:

Special Central Assistance; grants under first proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution; grants for construction of Girls and Boys Hostels for Tribal students; grants for construction of educational complex for tribal girls inJow literacy pockets; grants for construction of Ashram Schools; grants for runing. vocational training centres; grants for State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for taking up minor forest produce operations; grants to voluntary organisations and grants to Tribal Research Institute. Of these, the scheme under which grants 'are given for construction of Girls and Boys Hostals and Ashram Schools are on a sharing basis in which 50% of the cost of construction is to be borne by the State Government. Grant to Tribal Research Institute is also on 50:50 sharing basis.

Besides the above mentioned schemes; the Ministry of Rural Development has been releasing funds under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Intensified—Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme to the State of Orissa for the upliftment of rural poor including

the tribal communities. They also release funds to the Government of Orissa under their schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programmes where provision has been made that 50% of the beneficiaries should be SCs/STs.

The release -made under the schemes mentioned above during 1992-9$, 1993^94 and 1994-95 are as follows:—

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Special Central Assistance	3378.03	3603.23	356.55
Grants under first proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	434.78	815.25	771.00
Girls Hostels	35.58 (10 hostels)	77.24 (21 hostels)	44.00 (12 hostels)
Boys Hostels	30.00 (12 hostels)	29.40 (8 hostels)	36.00 (9 Hostels)
Ashram Schools	42.00 (4 schools)	16.20 (4 schools)	60.00 (4 schools)
Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for ST girls.	—	31.75 (6 comp.)	64.99 (14 comp.)
Vocational Training in Tribal areas.	—	70.23 (6 centres)	88.68 (6 centres)
Grant-in-aid to State TDCCs	—	50.00	75.00
Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations	29.10 (10 Orgns.)	43.37 (10 Orgns.)	52.87 (15. Orgns.)
Research & Training	3.22	3.73	8.59
Dawahar Rojgar Yojana	16389.03	16392.98	17095.55
Intensified Jawahar Rojgar Yojana	—	5370.00	3787.11
Employment Assurance Scheme.	—	4268.00	7884.00
IRDP	1883.91	3690.07	3243.2

The number of ST families economically assited under various schemes during the last three years is as folows:
1992-93—80,528
1993-94—1,06,815
1994-95-95,535

Employment of Handicapped Persons

1332A SHRI SHIVPRASAD CHANPURIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of the handicapped persons employed in Government service during the year of the handicapped;

(b) what is the number of such handicapped persons who belong to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes communities;

(c) the total number of the handicapped persons employed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh during the year of the handicapped; and

(d) the total number of the pending cases fo far?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The year 1981 was declared as International Year of Disabled by United Nations General Assembly. During that year a total number of 12,470 handicapped persons were given placement through employment exchanges.

(b) Separate information relating to. Scheduled castes Scheduled Tribes handicapped is not available.

(c) 569 handicapped persons were given employment by .the Government of Madhya Pradesh in 1981.

(d) A total number of 3,35,725 handicapped persons were on the five registr of all the employment exchanges upto June. 1994.